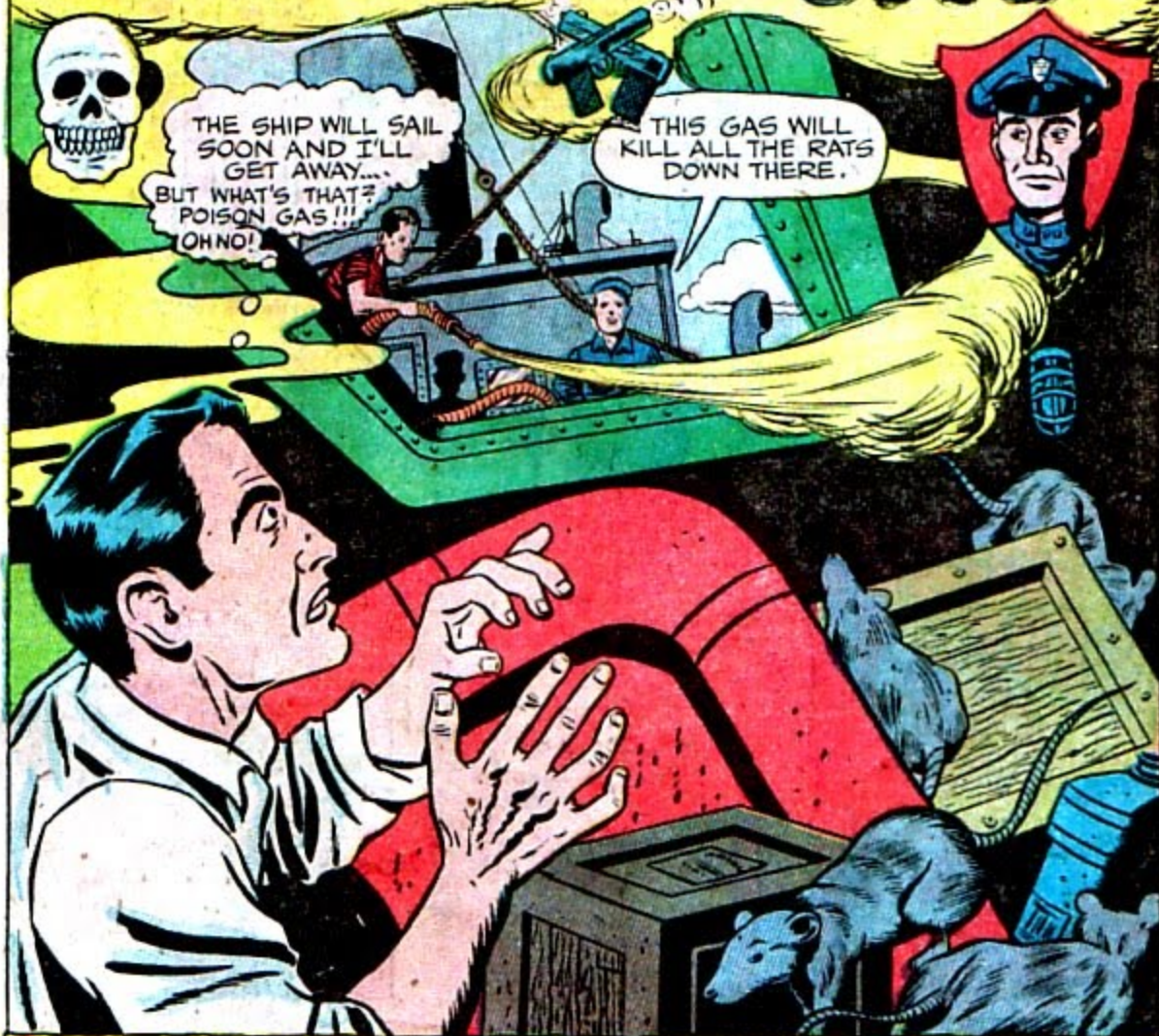


RATS DIE BY GAS!

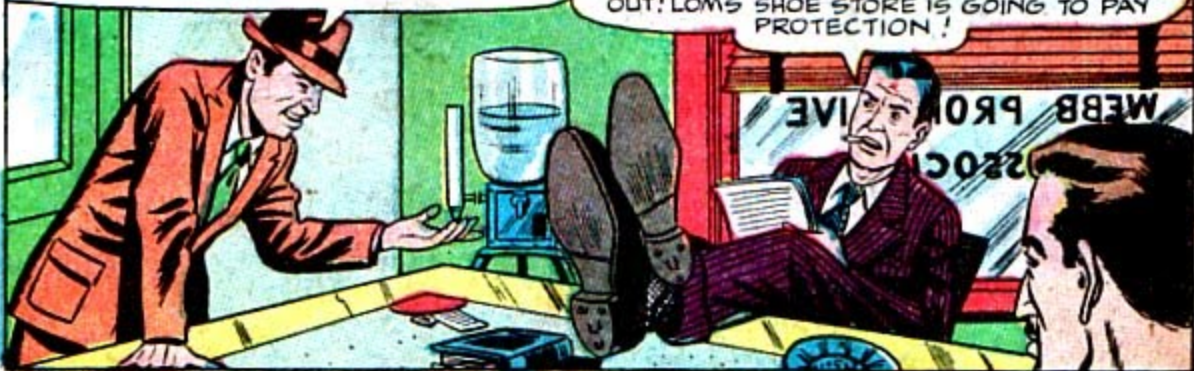


THE RATS DIDN'T BOTHER WEBB. A SMILE INCHED ACROSS HIS FACE. HE HAD ELUDED THE COPS. NOW ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS WAIT FOR THE SHIP TO SAIL SO HE BREATHED DEEPLY FREELY !!!

IT WAS ONLY SIX MONTHS AGO IN THE "OFFICE" OF RACKET BOSS HARRY "GASSY" WEBB

BUT, BOSS!! WE ALREADY WARNED HIM TWICE! HE SAYS HE WON'T PAY PROTECTION!

LISTEN YOU THICK-HEADED APE, WHEN I GIVE AN ORDER I EXPECT IT TO BE CARRIED OUT! LOM'S SHOE STORE IS GOING TO PAY PROTECTION!





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM



I DOUBT THAT, BUDDY.... BUT GO AHEAD ANYWAY! I AINT GOT NOTHIN' ELSE TO DO NOW.

PERHAPS YOU WOULD BE MORE CONCERNED, MISTER WEBB, IF I TOLD YOU THAT A MILLION DOLLARS WAS INVOLVED!

A MILLION BUCKS!! KEEP TALKIN', BUDDY! THAT KINDA DOUGH WOULD INTEREST ANYBODY!

I REPRESENT A FOREIGN POWER, MISTER WEBB! MY NAME... AND THE NAME OF MY COUNTRY IS NOT IMPORTANT... WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THE JOB WE WANT YOU TO DO!!



WE CHOSE YOU BECAUSE YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT GAS. WE KNOW YOU WERE IN THE POISON GAS DIVISION IN THE LAST WAR!

THEY DON'T CALL ME GASSY FOR NOTHING, YEH, I KNOW ALL ABOUT GAS!

BUT WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ME?

IT'S SIMPLE MISTER WEBB! YOUR COUNTRY HAS BEEN WORKING ON A SECRET ANTI-GAS FORMULA. WE KNOW IT'S ALMOST COMPLETED. MY COUNTRY WANTS IT.... AND WILL PAY YOU A MILLION DOLLARS TO GET IT FOR US!



AND SO AT THAT MOMENT WEBB'S LIFE CHANGED... INSTEAD OF PLAYING THE RACKETS, HE SWITCHED TO A MILLION DOLLAR PLAN OF TREASON! LATER THAT NIGHT!

ARE YOU SURE EVERYTHING IS CLEAR TO YOU? I AM LEAVING NOW... WE WILL NOT MEET AGAIN UNTIL YOUR MISSION IS ACCOMPLISHED. WHEN YOU HAVE THE FORMULA, BOARD THE SHIP S.S. ROSSIA. YOUR PASSAGE WILL BE ARRANGED.... I WILL MEET YOU IN MID-OCEAN!



REMEMBER I GET PAID OFF IN GOLD, BUT HOW WILL I NOTIFY YOU THAT I'VE GOT THE FORMULA?

DO NOT WORRY, WEBB.... ONE OF OUR AGENTS WILL KNOW OF YOUR EVERY MOVE! THAT FORMULA MEANS MORE TO US THAN THE MONEY!



THE ONLY ASSISTANCE THE FOREIGN AGENT WAS ABLE TO GIVE HARRY WEBB, WAS TO TELL HIM THAT PROFESSOR FREDERICK HOLT HAD BEEN PLACED IN CHARGE OF THE EXPERIMENT....

HENRY... HICKS... HERE IT IS, FREDERICK HOLT! HARVARD, 1928, INSTRUCTOR OF PHYSICS, COLUMBIA 193... YUP THAT'S MY BOY.



FROM THE CURRENT "SCIENTISTS AND PHYSICISTS MANUAL", HARRY WEBB GOT A CLUE WHICH WAS TO LEAD HIM TO PROFESSOR FREDERICK HOLT...

YES, I'M MRS. CARVER. CAN I BE OF SOME HELP TO YOU?

I'M LARRY WOLF. I REPRESENT THE "SCIENTISTS QUARTLY", MRS. CARVER. WE'RE DOING A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON THE WIVES OF GREAT SCIENTISTS!



WE KNOW THAT YOUR DAUGHTER, EILEEN, IS MARRIED TO FREDERICK HOLT... AND I WANTED TO DO AN ARTICLE ON HER. SO FAR, THOUGH, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE HER. CAN YOU HELP ME?

WELL, I... ER... I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO TELL A SOUL... BUT I DON'T THINK IT WILL DO ANY HARM TO TELL A NICE YOUNG MAN LIKE YOU! SHE AND FREDERICK ARE IN....



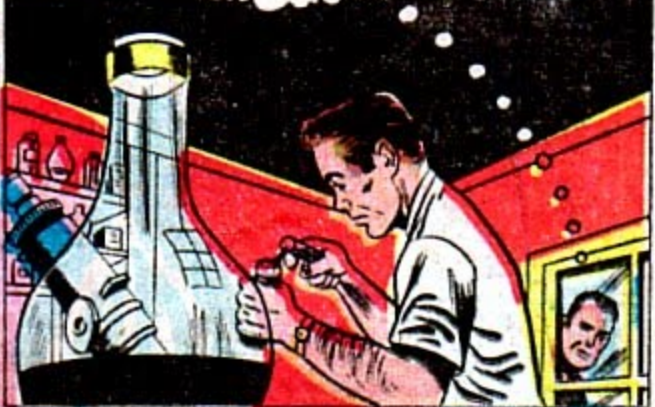
IT WAS AS SIMPLE AS THAT. THREE DAYS LATER FOUND HARRY IN LOS DELMO, NEW MEXICO...

WHAT AN AWFUL LITTLE DUMP THIS IS! OH, WELL, FOR A MILLION BUCKS, I CAN'T COMPLAIN! THE CARVER DAME SAID THE LAB WAS NEAR THE EDGE OF TOWN....



BY DUSK OF THAT EVENING, HARRY LOCATED THE HOLT LABORATORY....

HIYA PROFESSOR, BE CAREFUL WITH THAT STUFF YOU'RE MEASURING... I WOULDN'T WANT NOTHIN' TO HAPPEN TO YOU... YET!



HARRY KEPT A CAREFUL VIGIL AT THE LABORATORY EVERY NIGHT UNTIL HE WAS SURE... SURE THE FORMULA HAD BEEN COMPLETED....

I'LL CERTAINLY BE GLAD TO LEAVE NEW MEXICO, EILEEN! I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK WE'D BE HERE FOREVER!

IT WAS NICE THOUGH, WORKING WITHOUT THE F.B.I. CONSTANTLY HOVERING OVER US! I LIKE YOUR WORKING HERE RATHER THAN WASHINGTON!



THIS TIME THEY THOUGHT WE'D BE SAFER WAY OUT HERE ALONE WHERE NOBODY KNEW WHO WE WERE OR WHAT I WAS WORKING ON! I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE THE FORMULA'S COMPLETED, EILEEN. DO YOU REALIZE WHAT IT WILL MEAN? MILLIONS OF AMERKANS WILL BE SAFE... FREE FROM....



'FREE FROM NOTHIN', BROTHER! I'M TAKING THAT FORMULA! I GOT A BETTER USE FOR IT THAN YOU DO! THIS PEN HAS LIGNITE GAS IN IT, PROFESSOR. FIVE DROPS AND YOU'RE DEAD

WH...WHO ARE YOU? H...HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT FORMULA?



SKIP THE QUESTIONS, PROFESSOR. I'LL DO THE ASKING AROUND HERE AND YOU DO THE ANSWERING! NOW WHERE'S THE....

FREDERICK, WHERE DID YOU... OHHHHH!!



GET BACK HERE OR I'LL DROP THE PEN!

EILEEN, D, DON'T RUN



OKAY, YOU DUMB DAME, I WARNED YOU!

AGHRRR!



EILEEN RAN INTO ANOTHER ROOM AND "GASSY" LET HER HAVE THE LETHAL GAS!

SHE WAS A CRAZY IDIOT, HOLT! NOW QUIT STALLIN'! I WANT THAT FORMULA... AND NOTHIN' IS GONNA STOP ME FROM GETTIN' IT!

E-EILEEN! GOOD LORD... E-EILEEN!



STOP THAT BLUBBERING AND ANSWER ME! GIVE ME THAT FORMULA!

HAVEN'T YOU DONE ENOUGH ALREADY, YOU MADMAN? DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCEPTION OF WHAT THAT FORMULA MEANS? IN THE WRONG HANDS, IT COULD MEAN THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL OF US!!



WELL, WELL, PROFESSOR... YOU LEFT IT OUT NICE AND CONVENIENT FOR ME! THANKS!

YOU CAN'T TAKE THAT FORMULA... YOU CAN'T! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE DAMAGE YOU'RE DOING! WE COULD ALL BE WIPED OUT IN A SINGLE ATTACK! CHILDREN AND...



STOP THE PATRIOTIC DRIVEL, HOLT! I AINT INTERESTED...I DONT CARE WHO'S GOT THIS FORMULA...ALL I'M INTERESTED IN IS THE MILLION BUCKS I'M GETTIN' FOR IT! AND NOW IT'S TIME FOR US TO SAY "GOOD-BYE", PROFESSOR....



AGGHRRR! IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE KNOWIN' YOU PROFESSOR. I WON'T EVER FORGET YOU!!....



THEN WEBB USED HIS FAVORITE WEAPON ON HOLT, AND HOLT DIED.

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES HARRY WAS RUNNING FOR A PLANE THAT WOULD TAKE HIM BACK TO THE EAST..

WHAT A CINCH...JUST LIKE FALLIN' OFF A LOG...RIGHT INTO A SEA OF DOUGH! IN A COUPLE OF NIGHTS I'LL BE OUTTA THE COUNTRY...AND NOBODY'LL BE THE WISER!



BUT HARRY WAS WRONG..ALREADY THE F.B.I. WAS GETTING 'WISE'

YEAH, THEY'RE BOTH DEAD, KILLED BY GAS, CHIEF....AND THE FORMULA'S GONE! WE'RE MAKING A THOROUGH SEARCH NOW!!



EILEEN (GOD) D-DEAD! I-IT'S ALL MY FAULT! I TOLD HIM WHERE TO FIND THEM! H-HE WAS TALL, ABOUT THIRTY EIGHT AND..

THAT DESCRIPTION FITS GASSY WEBB!!

THAT'S A BREAK! WEBB IS OUR MAN, WE'LL HAVE HIS NAME AND DESCRIPTION BROADCASTED IN A FEW MINUTES!



ATTENTION, SPECIAL BULLETIN TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES! BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR HARRY, ALIAS "GASSY" WEBB!

THIS MAN IS CARRYING A FORMULA STOLEN FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WHICH MUST BE RECOVERED AT ALL COSTS! DESCRIPTION FOLLOWS....



WHEN HARRY WEBB'S PLANE REACHED NEW YORK....

THE BULLS! I GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!



HEY LOOK...RUNNING ACROSS THE FIELD!

STOP OR WE'LL SHOOT!

AFTER HIM, MEN!



THE DARKNESS OF THE NIGHT ENABLED HARRY WEBB TO MAKE GOOD HIS ESCAPE FROM THE AIR FIELD... A HITCH FROM A PASSING MOTORIST GOT HIM INTO THE CITY...

THANK YOU FOR THE LIFT, BUDDY..... GLAD TO HELP YOU!!



A CROWDED SUBWAY TOOK HARRY DOWN TO THE DOCK AREA OF NEW YORK...

NOW I'LL MAKE FOR THE DOCKS!



EVERY POLICE OFFICER IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK WAS ALERTED...IT WAS A DEADLY AND SERIOUS SEARCH...THE WELFARE OF THE NATION WAS AT STAKE!

WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT? HOW COME GASSY WEBB GOT TO BE SO IMPORTANT ALL OF A SUDDEN?

I DON'T KNOW, BILL... BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN THE BIG BRASS SO ALARMED. IT SURE MUST BE SOMETHING BIG, ALL RIGHT!



GASSY WEBB HIDING IN THE SHADOWS OF THE SILENT DOCKS FOUND THE SHIP THAT MEANT FREEDOM FOR HIM!

S.S. ROSSIA! WHAT A BREAK! I'LL STOW BELOW DECK WHERE NOBODY'LL FIND ME! I'LL MEET THE AGENT ON SCHEDULE... EVERYTHING WILL BE JUST LIKE I PLANNED!



NO ONE SAW GASSY WEBB AS HE QUIETLY CREPT BELOW DECK AND SECRETED HIMSELF IN A SILENT HATCH.

THIS SHIP IS GOING TO RUN WITHOUT ANY CARGO BUT ME TILL WE GET TO MEXICO. UGH, LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE RATS FOR COMPANY FOR AWHILE!



THE FOLLOWING MORNING, WHILE HARRY WEBB SLEPT IN HIS DEEP HATCH BELOW DECK, THE CAPTAIN OF THE VESSEL MADE SOME "FINAL" ARRANGEMENTS!!

I MADE A FINAL CHECK LAST NIGHT... ALL THE MEN ARE OFF THE SHIP. ARE YOU SURE THIS'LL BE EFFECTIVE!

I GUARANTEE IT, CAPTAIN! WE'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERY ONE OF THEM!



THE PORT AUTHORITIES WOULDN'T LET THE SHIP CLEAR UNTIL THE HOLDS WERE FUMIGATED!!!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING, CAPTAIN! WHEN WE GET THROUGH... THERE WON'T BE A RAT LEFT ON THAT SHIP!



NOW YOU CAN FUMIGATE THE HOLDS.

THE WORKMAN WAS RIGHT... NOT A RAT WAS LEFT ALIVE, NOT EVEN HARRY WEBB!!

H-HELP... I'M CHOKING! I... I'VE BEEN (COUGH, COUGH) BEEN... GASSED!

